

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 134

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Carter, Dickinson, and V. Manuel Pérez V. Manuel Pérez, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)**

(Coauthor: Senator Lowenthal)

March 20, 2012

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 134—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 134, as amended, Hueso. Dropout Recovery Week.

This measure would declare the week of June 4 to June 10, inclusive, 2012, to be Dropout Recovery Week, and would state the Legislature's intent to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Research suggests that fewer than 70 percent of  
2 9th grade pupils in California, and in some school districts, fewer  
3 than 50 percent, graduate from high school; and

4 WHEREAS, A 2011 survey by the Public Policy Institute of  
5 California found that strong majorities of public school parents  
6 and adults across political parties, regions, and demographic groups  
7 view the dropout rate as a big problem; and

8 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education  
9 demonstrates that if only one-half of the dropouts were recovered  
10 in California, the economic benefits to California would be  
11 staggering: those recovered dropouts would invest an additional  
12 \$394 million a year, increase home sales by \$4.5 billion during  
13 their careers, support an additional 8,700 jobs to the midpoint of  
14 their careers, and increase state and local tax revenues by \$167  
15 million every year; and

16 WHEREAS, Research further demonstrates that reengaged  
17 learners demonstrate higher civic engagement, contribute to the  
18 cultural strengths of their communities, and are significantly less  
19 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a  
20 violent crime; and

21 WHEREAS, There exist dropout recovery high schools in  
22 California that provide significant social, economic, and academic  
23 benefits to their pupils and to California's population as a whole;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Dropout recovery high schools face significant  
26 challenges in reengaging pupils into academic endeavors,  
27 including: (1) dropouts who reenter high school often perform  
28 significantly below grade level; (2) pupils who drop out display a  
29 gradual process of disengagement from school that encompasses  
30 years of academic and behavioral difficulties, absenteeism, and  
31 stressful life circumstances; (3) reengagement into a high school  
32 setting can be difficult and take a significant amount of time; and  
33 (4) pupils who have dropped out once are significantly more likely  
34 to drop out again; and

35 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd found that one-half of the  
36 dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less, one-third  
37 of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course after they  
38 reenroll, and only 18 percent of returning dropouts graduate; and

1 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools attract  
2 and retain high-quality staff committed to meeting the instructional  
3 needs of the whole pupil; and

4 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools utilize  
5 multiple strategies to overcome these challenges, including  
6 state-of-the-art technology, career technical education to reach a  
7 variety of learning modalities, accelerated learning pedagogies,  
8 competency-based, rather than seat time-based, instruction, and  
9 open entry and open exit enrollment; and

10 WHEREAS, Reengaged learners are no longer at risk of failure  
11 but at promise of success; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week  
14 of June 4 to June 10, inclusive, 2012, to be Dropout Recovery  
15 Week, in honor of the schools and staff who work to reengage  
16 pupils who have previously dropped out of school, and in honor  
17 of the pupils who have overcome significant personal challenges  
18 to reengage in high school and become transformed learners who  
19 will continue to pursue education to prepare for college and career  
20 in their futures; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support  
22 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,  
23 alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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